

DAVID RIVES MINISTRIES

THE CREATION CLUB

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MAGAZINE | SHARE & LEARN

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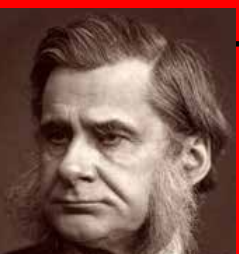
Explore the amazing purpose and design of spiders.



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Rotation of Venus points to design not chance!



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK:

Dear friends,

I’m always amazed seeing just how many new discoveries are being made in the scientific community. Each month, I feel like I’m having to reject worthy content because there’s not enough space in this magazine. That’s a good thing. It’s good because it means that there’s more than ample content addressing science from a positive, Biblical view. In fact, I usually iterate at least once at any given event I have the privilege of hosting or keynoting: “All of the breaking discoveries in science, whether in Biology, Geology, Paleontology, Astronomy, Archaeology, or Anthropology, are consistently pointing to complexity and design beyond what evolution would predict. Not JUST ANY design — they are pointing to design by the God of the Bible!”

Over the past few months, as I have surrounded myself with colleagues and scientists who are extremely bright and made new friends all over the country, it feels as if I’ve been offered more “behind-the-scenes” glimpses of research and discovery than ever before. That has only served to confirm my previous statements — it is an encouraging (albeit tedious) road ahead.

Charles Spurgeon, while not a scientist,

was a brilliant orator and known as the Prince of Preachers. He claimed that one day in the not-so-distant future, people would laugh at the idea of biological evolution as being one of the most foolish notions that ever crossed the human mind.

Hearing that, one might ask the age-old question of the impatient: "Are we there yet?" No, not quite. While it would be ludicrous to claim that it's all downhill from here, I certainly don't accept the grim outlook that so many today promote. Tragedy, debate and frustration sells — as the media has taught us. It's addictive. But it's additively depressing! We, as Believers, have lights to shine and I feel it is my duty to shine a spotlight on the positive: You are Wonderfully Made. Evolution can't stand much more scrutiny before it will begin to crumble. Let's make sure that it gets replaced with the Biblical truth. The truth rooted in the Gospel. The Gospel

that is rooted in Genesis.

Thanks for helping me shine the light. I'll see you right here next month.



I'm David Rives, Truly... the Heavens Declare the Glory of God

A final note:

Won't you join me as we explore creation together in South Africa? We'll be staying at Christian resorts, photographing and getting up close to some of the most extraordinary creatures alive, and viewing the stars from a completely different perspective (you can see constellations and stars in the Southern Hemisphere not seen from ANYWHERE in the States!).

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CREATION KID'S CORNER



SPIDERS, MATH, & THE CREATOR BY KATHERINE LOOP

It's hard to watch a spider spinning its web without being awed at how carefully he engineers something so fragile, yet so strong.

When we look at spider webs using math, the awe simply compounds. Did you know that "the spider web is actually comprised of numerous radii, a logarithmic spiral (given by the polar equation $r = ae^{b\theta}$) and the arithmetic spiral (given by the polar equation $r = a + b\theta$)"?¹

Nature worded it this way: "Spider webs themselves are characterized by a highly organized geometry that optimizes their function."

Spiders are yet one more example of how as we use math to explore God's creation, we're awed at the Creator's wisdom and care. God designed spiders to spin these marvelous structures!

And we should be grateful He did. While spiders can certainly be spooky, they serve an incredible purpose. In his video *Spiders! Ogres, Allies & Architects*, creation speaker Mike Snively points out that if spiders were to take a vacation, the world would be overrun with insects. He actually uses math to better help us appreciate this fact.

In the video, Snively looked with the viewer at the results of a study of how many ounces of insects one specific type of spider eats on average per day, and at another study done in Holland estimating the average number of spiders in each square yard. Then using basic arithmetic and some more facts (such

as the size of Holland, the size of the world compared to Holland, the average weight of a person, etc.), he walks through how one could arrive at an estimate that spiders consume bugs that would equal the weight of 10,000,000 people per day! [Note: There's no way to perfectly estimate something like this, but, as Snively points out, "even if this number is exaggerated by a factor of 3 or even 4, that's still a staggering number of bugs per day." And other research indicates that the 10,000,000 number may even be a conservative estimate. It's safe to say that spiders eat a LOT of bugs...and math helps us get a better idea of the magnitude of how much these little creatures eat!]

Now aren't you glad God made spiders such incredible engineers? He knew that in a fallen world, we'd need these little creatures to keep the insect population down.

I loved how Snively actually walked through the math (which was simple arithmetic) behind the estimate of how many bugs spiders eat. While many times science books or resources only quote a final number on a topic, know that math is involved in calculating the numbers you encounter in science. Math is truly the tool we use to explore God's creation.



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KATHERINE LOOP

After having her own view of math transformed, Katherine has been researching, writing, and speaking on a biblical worldview of math for more than a decade. Her books on math and a biblical worldview have been used by individuals, homeschool groups, and Christian schools and colleges, and she recently finished a junior high math curriculum - Now available at CreationSuperstore.com

HIS LIGHT IS KINDLED IN OUR HEARTS

BY EMMA DIETERLE

"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." Acts 15:18

God has truly made everything beautiful, perfect, and detailed. The firefly is a beetle that is fascinating to all of us. On beautiful summer nights, seeing them flitting about, as the flashes flicker on and off, coming from the underpart of their bodies, is an amazing experience. I have experienced watching these creatures many times. These fireflies show God's creativity. Let us discover more about these twinkling insects!

In some tropical areas, there are large firefly species that natives keep in glass cages to use for light. Scientists would like to duplicate this kind of heatless light, because it is much more efficient than electricity. They know how the light is produced, but the reaction is so complex that it is impossible for man to make it. We should not be surprised at this, because it is a very special reaction created for these insects by their divine Creator.

As the firefly starts life in the ground, even its eggs have a glow to them. Before it is ready to fly, it develops into a glow worm. You may have seen them shining beautifully as they crawl around looking for food.

There is another illuminated insect found in some caves in New Zealand. This little fly, while still a maggot, gathers with others in groups of several thousands on the ceilings of caves and glows in the darkness. It first attaches itself to the roof of the cave. Then a two-foot long string drops from its mouth with small, sticky balls on it. It waits in the darkness, with its tail light glowing, until it feels a victim struggling to get loose from one of the sticky balls. Pulling it up, it eats the victim along with the line on which it is caught. Then it lets down a new string. How amazing is our God! He is definitely a God of detail and intricacy. He has made everything perfect and beautiful!

There are over half a million species of insects that abound throughout the world, and yet God has made each one different. This variety of creation speaks of His handiwork. Colossians 1:16 says, *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."* All these little creatures, are exactly the same today as they were the day they were created. God designed each one to bring forth after its own kind. Furthermore, they always obey His laws without question. He has everything in His hands! Psalm 50:11 declares, *"I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine."*

We are reminded from these light displays that the Lord Jesus is our True Light of the world. God has given His people a special kind of light which He wants us to display. Matthew 5:16 says, *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* He is our lamp and leads us into all truth. 2 Samuel 22:29 declares, *"You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light."*

Psalm 27:1 says, *"The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?"* He is our light. It is only when by faith we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior that He brings us *"out of darkness into His marvelous light."* 1Peter 2:9 declares, *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."* His light is kindled in our hearts when we are following Him. When we acknowledge and believe in the Lord then we can glorify the Lord and share His glorious grace and light! The light of a Christian life, shining for Him, is rewarding and full of treasures and blessings. Isaiah 60:1 says, *"Up! let your face be bright, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is shining on you."* Let us give thanks today for His light and salvation on our lives!



EMMA DIETERLE

Emma loves to spend her time hiking in God's creation, teaching the Bible, reading, writing, and using her voice to worship the Lord! Emma's passion is also to capture God's glorious creation through photography, which she posts at her website: photosbyemmagraces.com
- Article Copyright © Emma Dieterle



Saturdays at 1:30pm Central (2:30 Eastern) on TBN. David Rives hosts top scientists with stories and discoveries that will enlighten, educate, and inspire. Each episode of this innovative show will challenge viewers to take a closer look at Scripture in light of the wonders of God's creation.

CREATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY WITH DAVID RIVES

THIS MONTH ON CREATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

03
FEB

David Rives and Dr. Tim Clarey discuss "Revealing Secrets of Ice Age"

17
FEB

David Rives and Brian Thomas discuss "Biblical Evidence For Earth's Age"

10
FEB

David Rives and Dr. Jason Lisle discuss "The Ultimate Proof of Creation"

24
FEB

David Rives and Mike Snavelly discuss "The Puzzle on the Plateau"

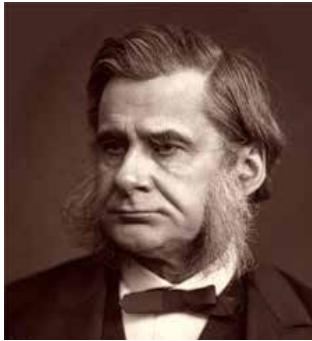
*Scheduled episodes subject to change

"DARWIN'S BULLDOG" UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE OF GENESIS TO GOSPEL -BY DAVID RIVES

Evolution is popular! It seems that every time you turn on the TV, read a college textbook, or flip through an astronomy magazine, you see some form of it. How did this philosophy become so popular that it literally took over science? Let's take a look at Thomas Huxley, - a leading humanist during the time of Charles Darwin. He is also known as "Darwin's Bulldog" because of his lifelong dedication to promoting Darwin's evolutionary ideas. Darwin was, you might say, Huxley's idol, and Huxley actually did more to popularize evolution than Darwin himself! Thousands of people turned out for his lectures on evolution and, unlike Darwin, he wasn't afraid to broach the topic of human evolution.

Now, unlike many Christians of his time and our time, Huxley realized the inconsistencies between evolutionary ideas and Scripture. He understood the importance of a literal Genesis to the Gospel. He said that if the history recorded in the Old Testament is wrong, then we can't trust the New Testament accounts either. Huxley certainly didn't say this because he liked the Bible. He didn't believe God's Word and he was happy when people rejected it. He did it because he understood that you can't have a foot in both worlds. You

can't consistently hold to biblical teaching and evolutionary ideas. Unfortunately, some people try to blend the two, but they really are polar opposites! Huxley wanted to show that you can't hold both ideas (I think he was right about this), but then he went on to claim that evolution was the only scientific position. That was one of his strategies to encourage people to doubt and reject God's Word. Huxley's words have truth for us today.



If we accept evolutionary ideas, we're saying that the history recorded in God's Word is false. In reality this history provides the foundation for the Gospel! Without a literal Adam who sinned and brought physical death into Creation, why did Jesus (the second Adam) come and physically die? A belief in evolution and millions of years undermines the Gospel message! Instead of trusting man's word, we need to start with God's Word and refuse to compromise with the thinking of our day.

I'm David Rives. Truly, the heavens declare the glory of God.



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EVENTS

MARCH 12-17
Christian Worldview
Film Festival
NASHVILLE, TN

FEBRUARY 20
Creation Club Monthly Event,
Wonders of Creation Center
LEWISBURG, TN

MARCH 8-10
Teach Them Diligently
Homeschool Convention
NASHVILLE, TN

MARCH 26
Creation Club Monthly Event,
Wonders of Creation Center
LEWISBURG, TN

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SKYWATCH

February 11 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

The photos and scripture you post (on Facebook) are right what I need to see at the exact right time. Thank you. - Karla K.

Keep up the wonderful series of Creation in the 21st Century (on TBN). It is such amazing evidence of creation. Judith J.

...Thank you for it's obvious how much you have taken the time to really research so much on evolution. Not to mention the universe. Thank you and of course I share all that you teach. -Kathy R.

Really cutting edge information and so educational.... -Alexis G.

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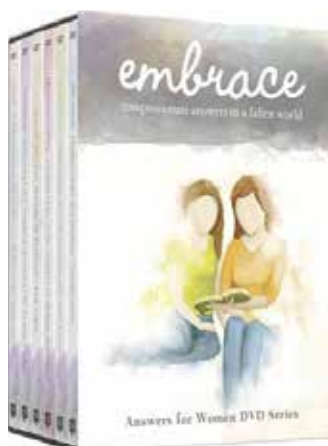
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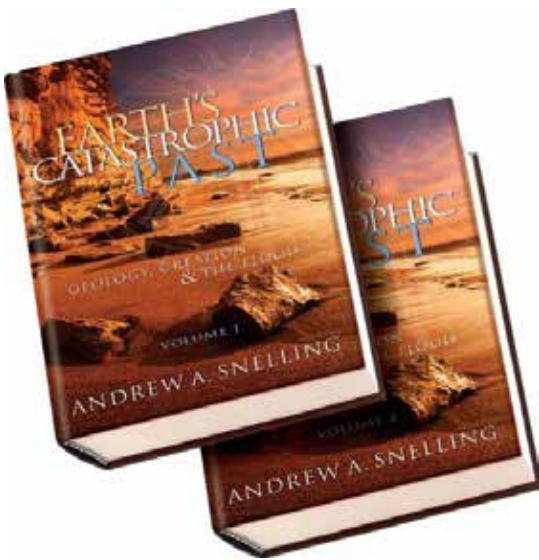


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SCIENCE IN THE NEWS:

HUNDREDS OF FOSSIL EGGS DISCOVERED

Up until recently, there were only eight fossil Pterosaur eggs discovered on record. In late 2017, it was announced that over two hundred Pterosaur eggs had been found all together in China. Sixteen of the eggs had preserved embryos inside. Pterosaurs are familiar creatures – most people think of them as the “flying dinosaurs”. Although not technically considered dinosaurs, they are flying reptiles found in the same rock layers as dinosaurs. With this recent discovery, scientists have been able to learn about Pterosaur growth and lifestyle - much more than ever before! Although it’s difficult to know the reliability, growth rings on the baby Pterosaurs point to a long incubation time. For example, one of the embryos was thought to be over two years old and still growing at the time of its death. Pterosaurs probably cared for their young for a while after they hatched. The scientists think this because the structures supporting one of the most important flight muscles were not well developed in these embryos. - Sara J. Mikkelsen

ScienceDaily.com, Nov 2017



THE “OLDEST” PLESIOSAUR

A private collector has discovered the “oldest” fossil Plesiosaur buried in a clay pit in Westphalia, Germany. This exceptional fossil was buried in Triassic rock (according to evolution, these rocks are older than the Jurassic rocks that Plesiosaurs are normally found in). The evolutionary age given this fossil is 201 million years. Plesiosaurs were majestic sea creatures ranging from 5-49 feet. They had four powerful flippers that they used to propel themselves through the water, a long, streamlined neck with small head, a stout, muscular body, and a short tail used for steering. What evolutionists see as “old,” creationists see as “buried first in Noah’s Flood.” We wouldn’t look at this remarkable fossil and see millions of years of evolutionary time. All, or most fossils can be accounted for by Noah’s Flood, about 4,500 years ago. This Plesiosaur is the first of its kind on record to be buried in the cataclysmic Flood. - David Mikkelsen

ScienceDaily.com, Dec 13, 2017

OIL, NATURAL GAS, AND A YOUNG EARTH

Up and down, up and down . . . I watched the giant oil pump that looked a little like a bird pecking at the ground. Growing up in the panhandle of Texas, oil wells and cotton fields were an ordinary part of the countryside scenery. Pictures of these oil wells are part of local art. In college, most of the other geology majors I knew were only interested in oil geology because they wanted to get rich quick.

Oil geology was not usually a topic I got excited about because I couldn't relate to those fellow students. I love science, especially geology and wanted to learn more so that I could minister to and teach others, not so I could get rich quick.

But, the geology of oil and natural gas really is amazing and puzzling. The search for oil has forced scientists to map the geologic layers of many different areas around the globe and allowed us to learn more about geology.

...People tend to have similar misunderstandings about oil and natural gas. Today, we will address three of these

Geologists must believe in evolution and billions of years to find oil
Oil and natural gas come from dinosaur bones
It takes long periods of time to make oil and gas

First, you do not have to believe that earth is billions of years old and all life evolved to find oil. Physical geology is important for discovering oil wells, but the history of life doesn't matter as much. Most of oil discovery is about testing, experiments, and finding physical patterns – not about evolution and long ages. It doesn't matter how old you think the layers are, the main point is the way they are arranged physically. Special vibrations are made to test an area and see where a



layer changes, much like an underground version of a radar. Certain rock types and patterns in the layers are used to discover good places for oil. It's all about observing and testing today. Finding oil and gas is physical, observational science...

...Most geologists agree that the chemicals that make up oil and gas probably came from algae and plankton like we find growing on water today. While there's a chance that dinosaurs bodies breaking down could contribute to the chemicals that make up oil and gas, algae and plankton are the main accepted sources at this time. It is possible to make oil and gas from non-living chemicals. Oil and gas can also be made from brown lignite coal under the right conditions. For oil and gas forming, it's all about the conditions – temperature, chemicals, rock types, and rock patterns.

Oil and gas come from certain “source rocks” that likely trapped algae and plankton. But, to be pumped out of the ground, they have to be in just the right type of rock – rock that works like a sponge with lots of tiny open spaces that are connected. Since it's usually hard to get oil and gas out of the “source rocks” that it originally formed in, they have to migrate to these special sponge-like “reservoir rocks.” People often think that it takes very long pe-
continued on page 15



SARA MIKKELSON

Sara is Manager of Social Media at David Rives Ministries, program director for Genesis Science Network, and administrator of The Creation Club website. With a passion for children's ministry, her easy-to-understand articles on creation science are a featured part of our Creation Monthly newsletter. Sara has an Associate of Science degree in geology, graduating Phi Theta Kappa with honors. - Article Copyright © Sara Mikkelsen

THE CREATION CLUB



The Creation Club was formed by David Rives Ministries, a non-profit 501(c)3, to give gifted writers and contributors a place to share their content relating to Biblical Creation.

A PLACE FOR BIBLICAL CREATIONISTS TO SHARE & LEARN



THREE LOGICAL PREREQUISITES FOR BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

One central question that proponents of biological evolution must answer is: How did the information in DNA arise? We might disagree on how much information is present in living things or even on how to quantify or define it, but pretty much everyone agrees that the DNA of living things contains information not found in non-living things and that complex organisms have more of it than simpler organisms.

So how did that genetic information get there? Can information be added, bit by bit, through unguided natural processes? That's what evolution claims. Yet, thus far, this step by step addition of information has not been observed. Until it is observed, the idea of common ancestry of all life is merely conjecture.

Of course, even if we could show that there are some instances in which information is added by unguided natural processes, that would be necessary to support common ancestry, but not sufficient. In order to even begin to make a solid case for biological evolution, one must show three things. If even one of these prerequisites is false, the modern theory of evolution (i.e. universal common ancestry via unguided natural processes) cannot be true. If any one of them cannot be shown to be true, evolution remains unverified and thus belongs to the realm of speculation, not science.

1: It is possible to add biological information. Richard Dawkins describes evolution with an analogy of "Mount Improbable" which looks like an impossibly steep cliff on one side, but can be climbed by tiny little steps up the back. This is the evolutionist's concept of adding biological information in tiny steps, so that over time they add up to all the complexity we see among organisms today. However, Mount Improbable cannot be climbed

unless it is, at some level, possible to go upward. If an organism only ever takes downward or level steps and cannot step upward, it will never get to the top, no matter how much time or how shallow the slope. Thus, in order to prove evolution, it is necessary (but not sufficient) to show that it is possible to add functional genetic information through unguided processes.

2: There are more upward steps than downward steps (or at least a way to get more upward steps than downward steps at least some of the time). We know that genetic information is often corrupted and destroyed through mutation. We know that there are many, many harmful effects when an organism's DNA is altered. In order for evolution to overcome this downward current toward catastrophic information loss, there must be an even stronger current upward (at least some of the time) in order to explain how the information was able to increase from that present in a tiny and simple organism to the information in a larger and more complex one.

Again, using the Mount Improbable analogy, it is impossible to get to the top by taking three steps downward for every step upward. There must be an overall trend toward increasing information. So even if there are a few examples of increasing information, they are not sufficient to prove evolution. If evolution is true, these upward changes must be the rule, not a rare exception.

3: There does exist a gradual genetic pathway that can be climbed in tiny, incremental steps. In order for evolution to be true, not only does information have to be added over time, but each successive change must occur in a living organism and it must be conserved by being passed on to offspring. Thus, the change cannot kill the organism or seriously disable it, or the change will not be passed on. This must be the case for every

step in the entire evolutionary sequence, no matter how small. At every step, there must be a functional organism. Thus, the changes must be gradual enough that the tiny upward steps (if they exist) can achieve each new level without killing or disabling the organism or impeding its ability to reproduce.

To use a simplistic analogy, if one tries to change from one word to another by changing one letter at a time (cat to cot to dot to dog, for example), there must, at every step, be an actual word that can be reached by changing one letter. In the Mount Improbable analogy, this means that there can be no upward jumps in the trail. If the maximum possible upward step is 6 inches, then there can be no 6 foot cliffs along the trail, or even 7 inch steps. If ever there is a step which requires more information than unguided evolution can provide, then evolution is falsified in that instance. It cannot account for the change in information in such a case.

The problem with these three points is that, not only have they not been demonstrated, they aren't even adequately addressed by modern science. There has been a bit of discussion on Point 1, with a handful of examples that might show information increase, depending on the definition of information. However, even these are controversial and far from settled. There has yet to be shown any clear-cut examples of the addition of functional genetic information by unguided, natural means. There are plenty of examples of genetic change that benefits the organism, but being beneficial and showing an increase in information are not the same thing. While we have many instances of demonstrated change in organisms, it is not clear that these cases show the kind of change that is necessary to account for how the current genetic information in living things got there in the first place. Demonstrating a true gain-of-function mutation has proved very difficult, to say the least.

In addition to this, some cases of beneficial mutation appear to be non-random and thus may be a programmed response of the cell to change its DNA in response to specific conditions. This would be a directed mutation, not a random one. In such a case, no information

has been added as the programming to cause this mutation was already in place.

So Point 1 above has not yet been conclusively proven. We don't even have adequate evidence that upward evolution (spontaneously increasing information) is possible. But that's just the first step. Points 2 and 3 aren't even discussed, much less demonstrated. In fact, there is good evidence that Point 2 is false. Simply the fact that there are only a few cases where an increase in information is even postulated, compared to the huge number of examples where genetic change is known to destroy information, suggests that the downward current is stronger and that genetic information is far more often destroyed than built. Furthermore, Point 3 is usually just assumed without any discussion. The assumption appears to be that the theoretical gradual pathway of increasing complexity is real, without bothering to determine whether the proposed intermediate steps produce a functional living organism or whether or not there are information cliffs, so to speak, that cannot be climbed in small, gradual steps.

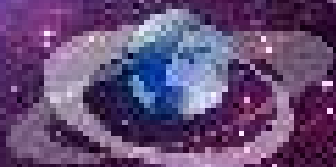
There is also some very good evidence that large jumps in information would be necessary. Many critics of evolution have pointed out examples of irreducible complexity in which a system exists that cannot be produced by gradual changes, but requires several parts to all be present and properly placed and oriented in order to produce any function at all. Such irreducibly complex systems would be examples of informational cliffs that cannot be produced by small, incremental steps.

Unfortunately, the fact that someone can imagine a gradual pathway of increasing information that results in a living organism at every step doesn't mean it actually exists. Science requires more than mere speculation to make a valid theory. Until these issues are addressed and evidence is provided that all three prerequisites are true, it is more than premature to speak of evolution as fact – it is downright dishonest.



LINDSAY HAROLD

Lindsay has a Master's degree in biology and taught college-level biology courses, including General Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology, until she became a homeschool mom. She loves science in general, as well as biology in particular. - Article Copyright © Lindsay Harold



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riods of time for the oil and gas to move from the source rock to the sponge-like reservoir rock, but that isn't necessarily the case. It's hard to observe this moving happening today because it all happens deep underground. We know it must come from the source rocks because the chemicals in the source rocks match the chemicals in the oil. The movement of groundwater helps move oil and gas because oil floats on water rising above it, and gas "floats" on the oil. Oil and gas are often found in layers above underground water sources – water makes the movement go a lot faster than it would without water.

Now that you know that discovering oil is about observational science (not history and evolution) and you have a better idea of what oil and gas are made of, we can talk more about how long it takes to form oil and gas. This covers the third common misconception – that oil and gas takes long periods of time to form. Oil has been made in labs anywhere from days to a few years. Oil is also being made under the ocean today when underwater volcanic activity heats up the water around some plankton and algae. We can see this happening in the Gulf of California. With water covering everything and lots of volcanic activity happening during the global flood, it's easy to see how oil could have formed during and after the flood.

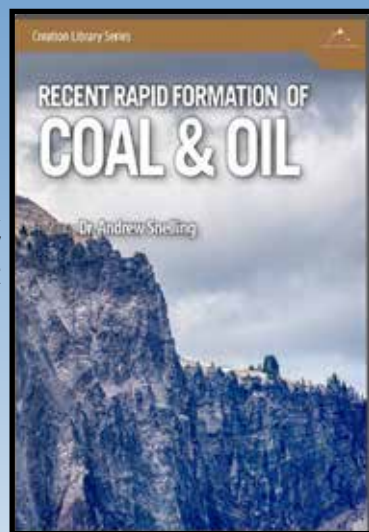
Oil can be made today both quickly in the lab and naturally in the ocean. The oil and gas we find today and use for fuel are not a problem for the young-earth model. However, there are questions about whether or not oil and gas could last for millions of years. If oil is too close to the surface, it will decay. Oil and gas usually have to be in a sponge-like reservoir rock, and there has to be the right type of rock on top of the reservoir rock to act like a cap and keep the oil and gas from escaping or decaying because of things close to the surface. Some will say that the heat "pasteurizes" the oil and gas, keeping it from decaying, but this is difficult to prove. Oil may be similar to soft-tissue finds in dinosaur bones – something that shouldn't be around after millions of years.

It turns out that oil and gas formations that we find today line up much better with the Biblical young-earth and global flood model of geology. Just like coal, oil and gas are a wonderful gift of provision that God provided to us through the catastrophic judgment of the global flood. The whole science of geology is filled with examples like these where God used something bad (the flood) to make something useful for us today. And just like kids who have received a gift from a parent, people groups do bicker and war over prized areas where this gift of oil is found. But, that doesn't make it any less of a gift. Be sure to remember to thank Him today for the gifts He has provided to you. And always remember, He is the master of turning painful circumstances into blessing.



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